

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2017

The Honorable John Michael Mulvaney
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney,

We write to express our continued support for the Upper Ohio Navigation Project in Western Pennsylvania. Completing this long-delayed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) infrastructure project, which Congress authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act (P.L. 114-322), is essential for the continued viability of our inland waterway system and our country's economic revitalization. The current Administration has the opportunity to move this project forward and end over a decade of chronic delays and profligate spending on multiple Upper Ohio economic analyses. Accordingly, we ask that you release funding for this project as soon as practicably possible and forgo additional unnecessary analysis.

The Upper Ohio Navigation Project involves the construction of new navigational locks at the Emsworth, Dashields, and Montgomery (EDM) locks and dams on the Ohio River. These structures sit downstream from the Port of Pittsburgh, which handles over 35 million tons of cargo each year, including significant quantities of petroleum products, processed metal, grain, construction equipment, chemicals, and coal. The poor condition of the EDM locks frequently causes costly interruptions to shipping traffic, hurting regional businesses and putting family-sustaining jobs at risk.

After thirteen long years of analysis and review at a cost to the taxpayers of \$17 million, USACE finally issued a Chief's report for Upper Ohio last fall and Congress authorized the project shortly thereafter. The last year or so of delay was caused by the previous Administration's demand, despite unanimous project approval by USACE's Civil Works Review Board, that the project undergo yet another economic review. This final review was successfully completed less than a year ago. With that in mind, and given the importance of the project to our constituents, we were stunned to learn that, in the final days of the previous Administration, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) stated that even more economic analysis be conducted before the project can go forward. This is unnecessary and the delays that it would cause are unacceptable to our constituents and the American taxpayer.

We strongly urge OMB to withdraw its request for further economic analysis and to include funding for this worthwhile project in the upcoming budget.

Sincerely,



Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Pat Toomey
United States Senator



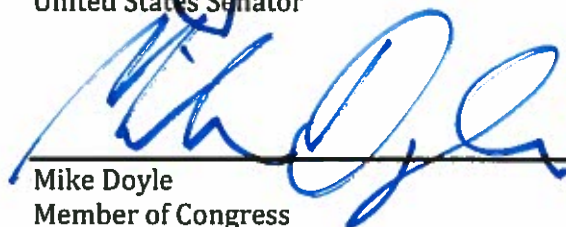
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Joe Manchin
United States Senator




Bill Shuster
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress